PREFACE

Praise to the God Almighty for His blessing, health, and opportunities in every step I passed so that I could finish this thesis entitled The Difference of Student’s Mathematical Understanding in Realistic Mathematics Education and Conventional Classroom at SMP Negeri 1 Lubuk Pakam in time. This thesis is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Sarjana Pendidikan in Medan State University.

I want to express special thanks to my beloved family, my father, J. Pasaribu, my mother, M. Tarigan, and my blood brother, Victor Patar Pasaribu, for their everlasting support, patience, love, and their prayer throughout this process. I dedicate this thesis for them. My warm thanks go to my cousin Maya Silitonga and D. Supit, and their children, Ditya Andrian Supit, Yona Irene Supit, and Cyrillian Ruben Supit, for their support and care. My special thanks are extended to my family, my lovely grandmother, my sister, Sur, Nur, and Sum, my brother, Bandot and Tugino for their prayer, care, and love.

Special thanks are extended to my supervisor, Mr. Dr. E. Elvis Napitupulu, M.S. for his time, patience, a lot of advice, constructive criticism, questioning and probing, and constant encouragement that were deeply appreciated and valued. I also extend special thanks to Mrs. Dra. Ida Karnasih, M.Sc., Ph.D., Mrs. Dra. Nerli Khairani, M.Si., and Mr. Denny Haris, S.Si., M.Pd. as my examiners who gave me insightful suggestions from compiling proposal till this thesis compilation was done. And also for my academic counselor, Mr. Prof. Dr. Mukhtar, M.Pd., I want to express my special thanks for his guidance and suggestion during the lecture period.

I would like to thank Mr. Prof. Dr. Ibnu Hajar, M.Si. as the Rector of Medan State University as well as the staff employees in rector’s office, Mr. Prof. Dr. Motlan, M.Sc., Ph.D. as the dean of Mathematics and Sciences Faculty, Mr. Prof. Dr. rer.nat. Binari M., M.Si. as the coordinator of bilingual class, Mr. Drs. Syafari, M.Pd. as the chief of Mathematics Department, Mr. Zul Amry, M.Si. as the chief of Study Program of Mathematics Department, Mr. Drs. Yasifati Hia,
M.Si., and all of staff employees in Mathematics Department of Mathematics and Sciences Faculty that were involved in this thesis compilation.

I also express my deep gratitude to the principal of SMP Negeri 1 Lubuk Pakam, Mr. Animan, S.Pd., as well as all of the clerical employees, Mr. Mahmud, as the vice of principal, mathematics teacher, Mrs. T.N. Siregar, and all of teachers in SMP Negeri 1 Lubuk Pakam, that gave me permit to conduct the research, helped me from the beginning till the research done, and gave me support throughout this process. I also want to thank all of students in class Bil-1 and Bil-2 for their collaboration, support, and passion when I was teaching them.

I would like to thank my best friends, Abdul, Anggi, Dian, Dwi, Erlyn, Elfan, Kiki, Falni, Mila, Lia, Meiva, Martyanne, Melin, Surya, Nelly, Petra, Riny, Rully, Sartika, Sheila, Siti, Uli, and Mimi, and also especially for my hometown best friends Rabiatul Daulay and Winda Safitri, Firman Sibarani, friends of PPLT in Balige, and all my friends i did not mention for their support and love throughout this process. It would not have been possible without each of you.

I am also grateful for my senior Epril Parhusip, S.Pd. that has given me some advice and support in the beginning of this thesis compilation.

I have done the best for finishing this thesis, but I realize that this thesis has its shortcomings either in contents, grammar, or technical writing. Hence, I hope the constructive criticism and suggestion from the reader for the perfection of this thesis. I hope this thesis could be useful for further researchers and useful in enrichment the knowledge.

Medan, Agustus 2014

Author

Maria Priscillya Pasaribu